

LAAPANOTES

Giving Thanks for Everyone at LAAPA!



As I write our December newsletter, it's just a few days after Thanksgiving and today I quite literally rolled into the office - you see, both my wife's family and my family had Thanksgiving this year (lunch then dinner - oh boy), so it was quite a calorific holiday, yet a most enjoyable one as I hope was the case for all of you!

Looking back on this year, I'd just like to take a moment to say a huge, "Thank You" to all of our students and parents who have either recently joined our academy or (in many cases) have been studying with us for years. This year the academy hit it's 1,250 student milestone! Being able to effectively fulfill our mission of spreading the joy of music and dance within our community is such an awesome privilege to us. Of course, we couldn't do it without some of the top music and dance educators and administrative professionals in the New Orleans area. It takes a true talent and commitment to excel in any profession, and our faculty and staff work to achieve this very goal daily. They are undoubtedly our greatest asset and we can't wait for you to see the results of their dedication and professionalism at our upcoming Christmas productions!

One of my greatest joys here at the Academy is being able to see the growth of each student from the time of enrollment to the present. Many times brand new music and dance students come to us and let us know upfront that they aren't really interested in performing in our concerts for one reason or another, and we let them know that's perfectly fine! However, after taking lessons for a little while and building additional self-confidence, many even-

tually choose to participate! With 23-24 concerts a year that we hold at LAAPA, there is certainly no lack of performance opportunities, and I can't wait to see what you all have been preparing for our final performances of 2016!

Even if you won't be performing this December, we hope that you can join us to enjoy the many performances from our talented music and dance students! This year we will be holding a record 12 concerts jam packed with over 530 performances!

Our concerts for the Covington and Mandeville Schools of Music will be held on Saturday, December 16-17 at the Fuhrmann Auditorium in Covington. Music Concerts for the River Ridge School of Music & Dance will be held on Saturday, December 10 at Victory Fellowship in Metairie. Our Dance Recital will be held on Sunday December 18 at Loyola University's Roussell Hall - 2 PM.

Student Concert time assignments will be published within the first week of December at:
http://laapa.com/current_students

In lieu of tickets, each December, our students, faculty, and staff put on a Benefit Concert to support the Teresian Sisters and their Mission in Batesville, Texas. Just 30 minutes outside of Uvalde, Texas, Batesville is a small, impoverished town near the Mexican Border. For more information on the Mission, please visit <http://www.laapa.com/mission>.

Merry Christmas & see you at the concerts!

Ryan Cullen

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laapatube](https://youtube.com/laapatube)



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laapatweets](https://twitter.com/laapatweets)

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 10, 16-18
Christmas Productions

December 21- Jan 3
Christmas/New Year Holidays

CONTACT US:



E-mail your news,
comments, etc. to us:
contact@laapa.com.

"Providing students of all ages with the education, inspiration, & motivation conducive to a lifetime appreciation for the performing arts since 1978."

REGISTER NOW FOR ALL PROGRAMS!

It's Easy to Get Started in Music
Lessons and Dance Classes!
Call us Today to
Reserve your Time.

Covington - (985) 590-4545
Mandeville - (985) 674-2992
River Ridge - (504) 738-3050

**Welcome to Our New
Students who began lessons in
November!**

Abby G.
Aiden S.
Alejandro R.
Ansley S.
Aubrey V.
Berlenda G.
Bo S.
Brinley F.
Bryce R.
Chance K.
Claire J.
(thanks to Madelyn H.)
Daniella D.
Didier G.
Elena K.
Ethan K.
Evangeline T.
Faith D.
Forrest W.
Hailey C.
Hope St. G.
(thanks to Catherine N.)
Hudson H.
Izelh M.
Jasmine R.
Julie T.
Kamiya C.
Keely H.
Kylie M.
Landon R.
Le Fei H.
Le Yan H.
Leana K.
Louis K.
Louis R.
Madeline W.
Marietta H.
Nicole P.
Patrick T.
Quinn Y.
Reagan H.
Remi C.
Rex H.
Siya P.
Skylar M.
Soren G.
Zach W.

Student News



River Ridge School of Music & Dance students known as "Billy's Kids" (from left to right) **Claire Sheppard** (guitar), **Gabriella Kleyle** (bass), **Sarah Anderson** (vocals), **Katelyn Chopin** (electric guitar), and **Jace Concepcion** (drums) recently performed at the Neutral Ground Coffeehouse for open mic night to rave reviews! Congrats to all performers and to faculty member, Mr. Bill Solomon for coaching the group!



River Ridge School of Music & Dance voice lessons student, Jacob Schweitzer was cast to be Dickens in the Secret Garden with the Genesians of Archbishop Rummel High School. He takes lessons with Ms. Maria.

Covington School of Music student, **Maddy Rose Monlezun** got the part of "Mrs. Claus" in her school Christmas musical! She takes voice lessons with Ms. Alexandra.



Mandeville School of Music student, **Liam McCauley** (age 15) - a sophomore at Lakeshore High School was selected as second chair guitarist for the Louisiana Music Educators Association AllState Jazz Ensemble which performed November 20, 2016. Liam takes guitar lessons with Mr. Josh and saxophone lessons/jazz band with Mr. Ryan.

Have News to Share? E-mail your news to studentnews@laapa.com!
Connect with us on Facebook at facebook.com/laapaface

Happy December Birthdays!

Students: Alison M. (17), Alyssa B. (13), Andrew P. (11), Anna C. (11), Anthony J., Arrollyn P. (7), Atticus F. (14), Ava P. (5), Bella B. (17), Ben W. (16), Bennett D. (4), Brandon J. (12), Bryce L. (8), Carrietta Y. (9), Charles A. (19), Cheryl E., Chloe B. (11), Chloe G. (9), Christopher T. (9), Christopher F. (16), Cioni M. (14), David P. (7), David R. (9), Emily G. (12), Emily R. (12), Ethan C. (6), Evan T. (14), Eviana R. (6), Finley T. (7), George B., Grace S. (11), Haley H. (16), Hannah C. (8), Hannah S. (9), Hayes H. (15), Henry F. (14), Hudson H. (9), Jaden B. (10), Jake G. (16), Jethro J. (9), Joshua P. (12), Juliet D. (9), Kaitlyn L. (15), Kevin N. (10), Kevin W. (10), Khalil E. (12), Kimea C. (4), Landon B. (9), Leah A. (4), Lily-Rose H. (6), Luis L. (14), Marcus B. (8), Mia R. (5), Michael C. (11), Myles F. (3), Nina M. (7), Patrick H. (14), Paulette S., Peter B. (10), Peyton F. (7), Reagan H. (9), Remy K. (8), Sanjana S. (14), Sean St. C. (10), Shamari S. (13), Skylar J. (14), Sophia Q. (8), Sophia R. (13), Trace P. (13), Tristen M. (12), Victoria M. (16), William C. (12), William B. (4), Yousef F. (7)

Faculty: Kate W., Dr. Kari B., Tamara M.

Students of the Month - Regina & Emily Richburg



Mandeville School of Music students, **Regina and Emily Richburg** take trombone lessons and piano lessons here at LAAPA! We recently had a chance to speak with them and learn a little more about their lessons and interests!

How long have you been taking lessons with LAAPA?

Both-5 1/2 months (moved here from California)

What kind of music do you listen to?

Emily- I like a wide variety, radio. The last thing I heard was Christmas music

Regina- I really like alternative music. I don't have a favorite band. I just really like the songs

What is your favorite part of the lesson each week?

Emily- learning new songs!

Regina- believe it or not, the scales, that's what my tests are on

What do you enjoy practicing each week?

Emily- it's hard to pick, to be honest, I like it all of it!

Regina- probably the concert band material that we do for my school

What are your other interests/hobbies?

Emily- I'm in the Robotics Club and Jazz Band at school

Regina- I like to draw (also in Concert Band and Marching Band)

Emily- well I like to draw too, but I'm not good at it

Regina- you just have to practice, try copying other artists, it works!

Student Shout Outs!

"Voice lessons are going very well. Kate really seems to enjoy them and never wants to miss!"

~ **Judith B.**

"Kelliana is loving it! She loves Mr. Ben and the way he teaches the guitar lessons!"

~ **Rhonda H.**

"She doesn't say much, but when I tell Chloe it's time to go to dance class, it's all she talks about. She loves Ms. Mary!"

~ **Melissa D.**

Fall 2016 Referral Contest -Did You Win a Jamstick +?

Do you love your music lessons or dance classes at LAAPA? Tell everyone!

If you refer a new student to the Academy and they enroll:

- You will receive a free lesson in any program.

- You will be automatically entered into our drawing this December 1 for a brand new Jamstick +! Visit [youtube.com/laapatube](https://www.youtube.com/laapatube) to see a demo!

Please make sure that your friend mentions your FULL NAME at the time of enrollment. The more friends you refer that enroll - the more chances you have to win!

The winner will be announced at [facebook.com/laapaface](https://www.facebook.com/laapaface) December 1!

* Immediate family members/members of the same household are not eligible for the referral program.



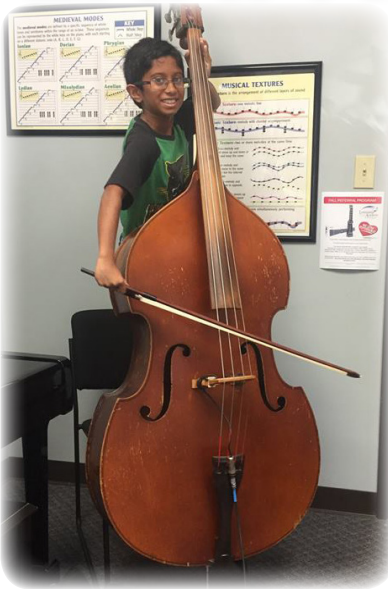
LAAPANOTES

Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts

2020 Dickory Ave. #200

Harahan, LA 70123

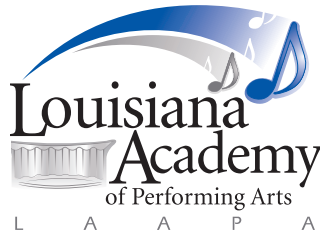
www.laapa.com | (504) 208-2301



(pictured above) Rishab's guitar lessons teacher, Mr. Bill, let him try out his upright bass at his recent lesson!

December Edition:

- Giving thanks for Everyone at LAAPA!
- Did you Win a Jamstick+?
- Student News
- Student of the Month - Regina and Emily Richburg
- Welcome to our newest Students!
- Happy December Birthdays!
- Supporting the Teresian Mission



Help us Support the Poorest of the Poor through Music & Dance!

Each Christmas, hundreds of families at LAAPA come together and donate gifts, clothing, and other basic needs items to support families in Batesville, Texas through the Teresian Sisters. For more information on how you can help, please visit <http://www.laapa.com/mission>. We will be accepting donations at our concerts held on Dec. 10, 16, 17, and 18. At the end of each day, we pack them up and drop them off to the Teresian Sister's Provinciate in Covington where they sort and prepare to transport them directly to the needy.



Photo: 2015 Christmas Concert Donations at the River Ridge campus